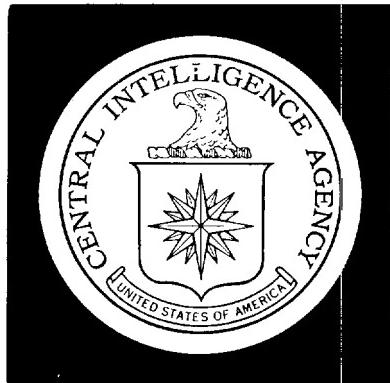


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INDIA-PAKISTAN: Yahya promises unilateral pullback of military units from border.

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*INDIA-PAKISTAN: PRESIDENT YAHYA HAS PROMISED TO PULL BACK MILITARY UNITS FROM THE BORDER UNILATERALLY, PROBABLY PRIMARILY TO ENCOURAGE US PRESSURE ON INDIA FOR SIMILAR ACTION.

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YAHYA TOLD AMBASSADOR FARLAND THAT HE AGREED TO START TO WITHDRAW HIS FORCES UNILATERALLY FROM FORWARD POSITIONS, ALTHOUGH "THIS DOESN'T MEAN THAT I WOULD PULL THE TROOPS BACK INTO THE BARRACKS." THIS REMARK SUGGESTS YAHYA ENVISAGES SOMETHING SHORT OF PEACETIME DISPOSITIONS, AND EVEN THESE ARE LESS THAN 20 MILES FROM THE BORDER IN SOME PLACES.

YAHYA ACCEPTED ONLY THE CONCEPT OF WITHDRAWAL AND NO SPECIFIC DETAILS WERE INCLUDED. PRESUMABLY THE PAKISTANIS WOULD FIND IT FAR EASIER TO WITHDRAW ALONG THE WEST PAKISTAN BORDER WITH INDIA THAN FROM THE EAST PAKISTAN FRONTIER, WHERE CLASHES OCCUR DAILY WITH GUERRILLAS OR INDIAN TROOPS.

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[REDACTED] ONE REASON FOR THE INDIAN MOVEMENTS TO THE WEST PAKISTAN BORDER WAS TO PUT PRESSURE ON PAKISTAN WHICH WOULD PREVENT THE REINFORCEMENT OF TROOPS IN EAST PAKISTAN AND THEREBY FORCE YAHYA TO NEGOTIATE WITH EAST PAKISTANI LEADERS ON THEIR TERMS. YAHYA OBVIOUSLY WOULD LIKE THIS PRESSURE REMOVED.

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[REDACTED] FOREIGN MINISTER SINGH SAID LAST MONTH THAT INDIA WOULD CONSIDER WITHDRAWING IF THE PAKISTANIS PULL THEIR TROOPS BACK. PUBLICLY, DEFENSE MINISTER RAM HAS SAID THERE WILL BE NO WITHDRAWAL AS LONG AS THERE IS A THREAT OF WAR. IN FACT, INDIA WILL BE RELUCTANT TO WITHDRAW ITS TROOPS UNLESS THERE IS A PROSPECT OF IMMEDIATE MOVEMENT TOWARD A SOLUTION.

YAHYA MAY BELIEVE THAT A REFUSAL BY MRS. GANDHI TO WITHDRAW INDIAN TROOPS WOULD CAUSE HER DIFFICULTY IN PRESENTING HER CASE TO AMERICAN POLICY-MAKERS DURING HER VISIT TO WASHINGTON BEGINNING TOMORROW.

(continued)

YAHYA ALSO AGREED TO A REQUEST--RELAYED BY FAR-LAND--FOR A MEETING WITH A FORMER MEMBER OF EAST PAKISTANI LEADER MUJIBUR RAHMAN'S AWAMI LEAGUE. THE POLITICIAN--WHO HAS BEEN ALLOWED TO KEEP HIS SEAT IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY--HOPES TO ARRANGE TALKS LEADING TO MUJIB'S RELEASE AND POLITICAL RE-HABILITATION. YAHYA EVEN AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO TALK TO A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BANGLA DESH GOVERNMENT, BUT EXCLUDED SOME OF ITS LEADERS BY SAYING HE COULD NOT SEE SOMEONE CONVICTED OF A "MAJOR CRIME."

*Because of the shortage of time for preparation of this item, the analytic interpretation presented here has been produced by the Central Intelligence Agency without the participation of the Defense Intelligence Agency, Department of Defense.

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